

**REMARKS**

**Claims**

After entry of this Amendment, Claims 1-7, 10-14, 18, 19, 22-34, and 37-39 are pending in the present application, with Claims 1, 18, and 27 being independent. Applicants have amended Claims 1, 12-14, 18, 27, 37, and 39 herein. Additionally, Applicants have canceled Claims 8, 9, 15-17, 20, 21, 35, 36, and 40-51 without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein. No new matter has been added.

**Summary of the Office Action**

In the Office Action dated July 30, 2003, the Examiner objected to Claims 9, 11, 13, 14, 21, 23, and 37 for being dependent upon a rejected base claim and indicated that those claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Additionally, the Examiner rejected claims 1-8, 10, 12, 15-20, 22, 24-36, and 38-51 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103.

**Response to the Office Action**

In response to the Office Action, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1 and 18 to include the allowable subject matter previously recited in dependent Claims 9 and 21, respectively. Additionally, Applicants have amended independent Claim 27 to include a similar feature.

Applicants also have amended or canceled certain dependent claims based on the amendments to the independent claims. Additionally, Applicants have canceled Claims 15-17 and 40-51.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the pending claims are patentable over the cited documents.

Applicants are not conceding that the rejections presented in the Office Action are accurate or correct. Applicants present the claim amendments and cancellations herein to allow a patent to issue for the subject matter found allowable by the Examiner. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the original claims in a continuation application and to submit remarks in response to the Examiner's claim rejections in such a continuation application.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit the foregoing as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated July 30, 2003. Applicants submit that this Amendment places the application in condition for allowance and respectfully requests such action. If any issues exist that can be resolved with an Examiner's Amendment or a telephone conference, please contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at 404.572.2809.

Respectfully submitted,



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